

Abstract The purpose of this study was to determine whether there were differences in the prevalence of risk factors for coronary artery disease between two groups of men who had been exposed to asbestos during their working lives. One group consisted of 60 men who had worked in asbestos-related occupations and the other group consisted of 60 men who had never worked in such occupations. All subjects underwent a physical examination, electrocardiogram, chest x-ray, spirometry, and blood sampling. The prevalence of hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, smoking, and diabetes mellitus did not differ significantly between the two groups. However, the prevalence of abnormal electrocardiograms was higher among the men who had worked in asbestos-related occupations than among those who had not. These findings suggest that exposure to asbestos may be associated with an increased risk of developing coronary artery disease.

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VAN TUIJL, ADRIANUS
JOHANNES MARIA

Kenneth B. Wells

2816

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Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

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